



STATE OF MICHIGAN

For Immediate Release
April 20, 2006

Contact: Kerry Krone
517-373-1758

Sen. Cassis' fight for Wixom Road Interchange pays off!

Wixom Interchange reconstruction gets green light

LANSING—State Sen. Nancy Cassis has long championed the reconstruction of the I-96 and Wixom Road interchange, and after nine years, she is proud to announce \$10 million in funding that will finally allow the project to begin.

Cassis first introduced legislation in support of the project in 1997, when she sponsored an amendment to the Michigan Department of Transportation budget authorizing it to begin studies on improving both the Beck Road and Wixom Road interchanges.

“The Wixom Road and Beck Road interchanges were always considered one project with federal highway dollars backing the reconstruction,” said Cassis, R-Novi. “Beck was to be completed first and Wixom was to immediately follow. However, the governor vetoed the project twice, most recently in October.

“This is an absolutely momentous victory for the city of Wixom and the surrounding community. This project will ensure safe and efficient access for workers and for moving products. The Wixom Road corridor has been ready for business expansion for quite some time, and the city will now be able to open the doors to economic development and new jobs.”

Cassis said the agreement is good news for Wixom because the interchange will greatly improve access to the property on which the recently closed Wixom Ford plant was located. Cassis recently co-sponsored a law that permits the city of Wixom to designate all or part of the Ford plant property as a Renaissance Zone, which will give local officials the option of using tax breaks to spur redevelopment.

“Today’s announcement is about driving job creation in Michigan and paving the way for growth all across our state,” Gov. Granholm said. “From going anywhere and doing anything to attract jobs to Michigan, to investing in the infrastructure that supports commerce, we have a targeted economic road map, and it’s moving Michigan in the right direction.”

Cassis said the state needs an affirmative commitment to begin construction now.

“I have stated before—no more games, no more delays,” Cassis said. “Jobs and economic growth are on the line, and it is time for us all to come together and get the appropriate legislation done so this project can proceed. With today’s agreement we put business growth and job creation where they should be—as the state’s top priority!”

Lawmakers will implement the legislation needed for the Wixom project funding in the next few weeks.

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